

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

1. (currently amended) A coupled terminal unit-(30) ~~in which having~~ a plurality of terminal fittings-(20) are coupled substantially in parallel by at least one coupling portion-(31) ~~and are to be so that the terminal fittings are substantially parallel and in a common plane, the terminal fittings being separately arranged arrangeable~~ in a connector housing-(11) by cutting off the coupling portion-(30) after being inserted into terminal insertion holes-(14) formed in the connector housing-(11), wherein:

~~the coupling portion-(31) is formed to be into a wavy shape extending out of the plane of the terminal fittings and is extendible in an arranging direction-(AD) of the terminal fittings-(20) of the coupled terminal unit-(30),~~

an arrangement pitch-(A) of the terminal fittings-(20) is narrower than an arrangement pitch-(B) of the terminal insertion holes-(14) in a stamped-out state of the coupled terminal unit-(30) from a conductive plate, and

the arrangement pitch of the terminal fittings-(20) can be made substantially equal to that-(B) of the terminal insertion holes-(14) by extending the extendible portion-(31).

2. (canceled).

3. (currently amended) The coupled terminal unit of claim 21, wherein the coupling portion-(31) connects adjacent terminal fittings-(20) at intermediate positions-(24).

4. (currently amended) The coupled terminal unit of claim 21, wherein the terminal fittings-(20) each comprise a widened portion-(23) having wider than other

portions-(21; 22) of the terminal fittings-(20), and wherein the coupling portion-(31) connects adjacent terminal fittings-(20) at a position at the widened portions-(23) thereof.

5. (currently amended) The coupled terminal unit of claim 21, wherein the terminal fittings-(20) each comprise a bulging portion-(24) to be engaged with the connector housing-(11), and wherein the coupling portion-(31) connects adjacent terminal fittings-(20) at a position near the bulging portions-(24) thereof.

6. (currently amended) A connector assembling method for a connector (10) having a housing with terminal insertion holes arranged at an insertion hole pitch, the method comprising the following steps:

providing a conductive plate with a selected thickness extending along a thickness direction;

providing stamping and forming the conductive plate to define a coupled terminal unit-(30) having a plurality of terminal fittings-(20) coupled by at least one coupling portion-(31) such that, the coupling portion being formed into a wavy shape extending in the thickness direction, an arrangement pitch-(A) of the terminal fittings-(20) is being narrower than an arrangement the insertion hole pitch-(B) of the terminal insertion holes (14) provided in a connector the housing-(11) of the connector-(10), and

at least partly flattening the coupling portion for extending the coupling portion(s)-(31) in an arranging direction-(AD) of the terminal fittings-(20) of the coupled terminal unit-(30) to thereby make the arrangement pitch of the terminal fittings-(20) substantially equal to that (B) the insertion hole pitch of the terminal insertion holes-(14); and

at least partly inserting the terminal fittings-(20) of the coupled terminal unit (30) into the terminal insertion holes.

7. (currently amended) The connector assembling method of claim 6, further comprising a step of cutting off the coupling portions-(31) after the terminal fittings (20) are at least partly inserted into terminal insertion holes-(14).

8. (currently amended) The connector assembling method of claim 6, wherein the arrangement pitch of the terminal fittings-(20) is made substantially equal to that-(B) of the terminal insertion holes-(14) upon inserting the terminal fittings-(20) of the coupled terminal unit-(30) into the terminal insertion holes-(14).

9. (canceled).

10. (currently amended) The connector assembling method of claim 96, wherein the coupled terminal unit-(30) is provided such that the terminal fittings-(20) each comprise a widened portion-(23) having a wider width than other portions-(21; 22) of the terminal fittings-(20), and that the coupling portion-(31) connects adjacent terminal fittings (20) at a position at or near the widened portions-(23).

11. (currently amended) The connector assembling method of claim 910, wherein the coupling portions are extended by being pressed substantially along the thickness direction-(TD).